

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph.

[0001] The present application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/606,579, entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY PROCESSING MAIL,” filed June 26, 2003; co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,745, entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DYNAMICALLY PARTITIONING A POSTAGE EVIDENCING METER,” filed August 19, 2003; U.S. Patent Application No. 10/677,619, entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HIGH-SPEED POSTAGE APPLICATION MANAGEMENT,” filed October 2, 2003 and published as 2005/0075990 on April 7, 2005; U.S. Patent Application No. 10/677,829, entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING A REMOTE POSTAGE METER ACCOUNT FROM A DEVICE THAT HAS A DEDICATED LOCAL METER AND ACCOUNT,” filed October 2, 2003 and published as 2005/0075991 on April 7, 2005; and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/679,861, entitled “SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING POSTAGE USAGE INDEPENDENT OF METER BALANCE,” filed October 6, 2003, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph.

[0038] In one embodiment, each label, which may be an individual label or a label on a roll or a sheet, has a unique serial number. The user enters the serial number on a user interface to the mail processing system. The mail processing system then prints postage indicia on the label. The printed postage indicia, which may be in the form of a two-dimensional barcode for example, may include the serial number of the blank label. The postage bar code may later be compared to the serial number on the label to verify that the postage is valid.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph.

[0040] The label stock includes a pre-printed serial number. The computer generates postage indicia including the pre-printed serial number. In another aspect of the invention, the master serial number is linked by the computer to a specific postage printing device. Once the master serial number and the specific printing device are linked, generation of the postage indicia further includes ensuring the master serial number is used with the specific postage printing ~~device~~ device.